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Space Vehicles Directorate member chosen as an associate fellow

Engineer surprised and honored about his selection for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' distinction

Dr. Peter Wegner, an engineer working at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., since January 1999, has been selected as an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics associate fellow.

To be considered for the honor, the Powell, Wyo., native had to meet the following requirements: be an AIAA Senior Member; achieve 12 years of professional experience; and submit three references from associate fellows, fellows, or honorary fellows.

"Being selected as an AIAA associate fellow surprised me," said Dr. Wegner.

He currently serves as the organization's responsive space technical area lead, a position involving the administration and distribution of \$50 million for several key programs including plug and play avionics, TacSat, and structures. In addition, Dr. Wegner leads an AFRL-directed, focused long term challenge working group addressing the development of responsive warfighting capabilities, and participates in an Office of the Secretary of Defense's team compiling an integrated strategic plan on science and technology vectors for Operationally Responsive Space. Prior to joining AFRL, he concentrated on completing his graduate and post-graduate education. For a couple of years in the early to mid-1990s, Dr. Wegner also worked as a research engineer for the Air Force Phillips Laboratory (a predecessor to AFRL), Edwards AFB, Calif.

"An associate fellow is a very important step in my career development," the Space Vehicles Directorate engineer said.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., and Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., respectively, Dr. Wegner received a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

Since joining the AFRL team, Dr. Wegner has conducted almost 40 presentations across the country and internationally, as well as has coauthored eight articles printed in several professional journals and magazines. He also filed a patent four years ago for a new fabrication method for grid-stiffened composite structures and has another one pending for a terrestrial transport container for safely moving satellites and other sensitive payloads from the manufacturers to the launch complexes.

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Space Vehicles Directorate

Air Force Research Laboratory

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“I am very honored about becoming an AIAA associate fellow. I was really impressed with the other people who were chosen, they seem to have contributed so much to the nation, I hope I can contribute as much,” said Dr. Wegner.



Dr. Peter Wegner, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics associate fellow